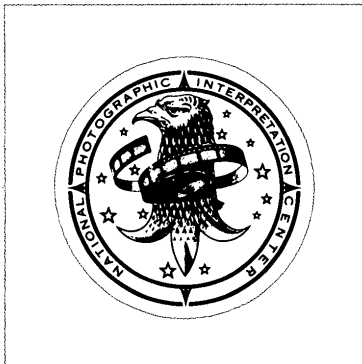


~~Top Secret~~

25X1



NATIONAL PHOTOGRAPHIC
INTERPRETATION CENTER

PHOOTOGRAPHIC
INTERPRETATION
REPORT

GROUND FORCES TRAINING ACTIVITY, WUHAN MILITARY REGION, CHINA, NOVEMBER 1974

~~Top Secret~~

25X1

25X1

MAY 1975
Copy 21
PIR-016/75

Warning Notice
Sensitive Intelligence Sources and Methods Involved

NATIONAL SECURITY INFORMATION
Unauthorized Disclosure Subject to Criminal Sanctions



25X1

Top Secret RUFF [REDACTED]

25X1
25X1GROUND FORCES TRAINING ACTIVITY, WUHAN MILITARY REGION, CHINA
NOVEMBER 1974

ABSTRACT

1. This report summarizes the extensive ground forces training activity observed in the Wuhan Military Region (MR) of China on KEYHOLE photography during November 1974. A map depicts KEYHOLE photography of the Wuhan MR, and another map shows the locations of major training exercises during November. Also included in the report are three photographs.

INTRODUCTION

2. During November 1974 indications of extensive ground forces training activity were observed in the Wuhan MR. This activity included river-crossing, antiaircraft artillery (AAA), field artillery (FA), armor, and airborne units, and one possible combined arms training exercise. While the majority of this training activity took place in the Honan Military District (MD) of the Wuhan MR, exercises involving river-crossing and airborne units were observed in the Hupeh MD. Figure 1 depicts all KEYHOLE photography of the Wuhan MR, and Figure 2 shows the locations of major training exercises during November.

BASIC DESCRIPTION

River-Crossing Training

3. [REDACTED] a river-crossing exercise was in progress on the southern border of the Hupeh MD. Three ponton bridge companies consisting of 66 ponton bridge carriers and 60 cargo trucks were parked on the south bank of the Yangtze River, approximately 3.5 nautical miles (nm) south of Hung-hu. Twelve bridging sections, each consisting of either four or six deck-covered end and center sections, and three powerboats were in the water.

25X1

AAA Training

4. A large AAA training exercise took place at the Chueh-shan AAA Training Area AL 5 [REDACTED] for at least three weeks during November. [REDACTED] 175 AAA guns, eight ZPU-2/4, four FIRE CAN radars, 12 PUAZO-6, nine pieces of equipment, and 357 cargo trucks were deployed within the training area. This training exercise was still in progress [REDACTED] when 164 AA guns, six FIRE CAN radars, six PUAZO-6, 20 pieces of equipment, and 361 cargo trucks were observed throughout the area. Figure 3 shows a portion of the AAA training exercise.

25X1

25X1

Armor Training

5. A large group of armor was observed at the Chueh-shan AAA Training Area AL 5 on [REDACTED] Seventy-six tanks, 14 M-1967 armored personnel carriers, three armored vehicles, and 12 cargo trucks were parked in the mountains south of the training area (Figure 4). It appears that this unit may have arrived in the area recently, since no evidence of actual training could be discerned. Part of the armor may have come from the Ming-chiang Headquarters Infantry Division and Army Barracks NW AL 1 [REDACTED] approximately 20 nm to the southeast. Usually, 35 to 40 tanks are seen at Ming-chiang; however, no armor was present [REDACTED]

25X1

25X1

25X1

Field Artillery Training

6. During November several FA units were noted in training exercises away from their barracks areas. A majority of the 100 FA pieces for the division at Chueh-shan Headquarters Artillery Division and Army Barracks AL 1 [REDACTED] were involved in field training [REDACTED] only five artillery pieces were in the barracks area, and 48 guns were observed at various locations away from the barracks [REDACTED] only 16 artillery pieces were in the barracks area, with an additional 80 guns observed in the field.

25X1

25X1

25X1

Top Secret RUFF

25X1

25X1

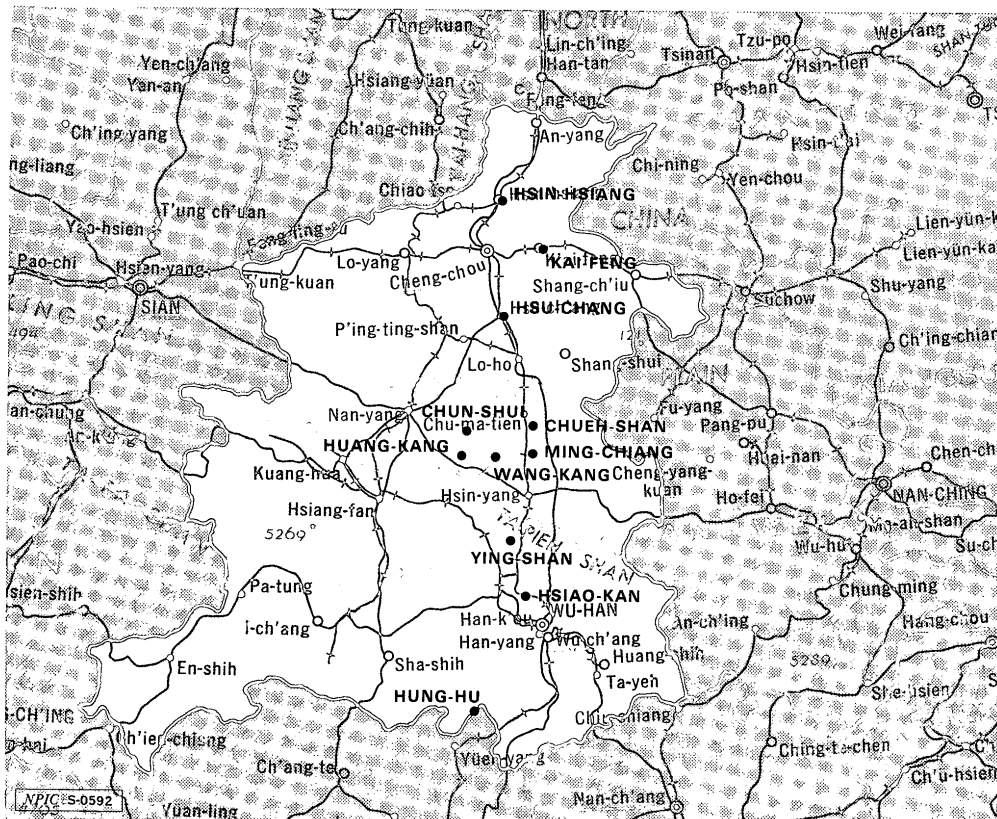


FIGURE 2. LOCATIONS OF GROUND FORCES TRAINING EXERCISES, WUHAN

- 2 -

Top Secret

25X1

Top Secret RUFF [REDACTED]

25X1

7. [REDACTED] an artillery regiment was deployed around the village of Huang-kang. This training exercise was nearing an end [REDACTED] when a portion of the regiment was observed in a convoy near Wang-kang. Figure 5 shows a part of this convoy headed east toward the rail terminus at Ming-chiang. The artillery regiment appeared to be from the Hsu-chang Infantry Division Headquarters and Army Barracks AL 5 [REDACTED]. If this regiment were from Hsu-chang, this particular exercise would reveal several items of interest concerning Chinese training methods. For example, it shows the distance that some units travel to perform training exercises. Huang-kang, the village where the artillery regiment was sighted [REDACTED] is approximately 125 nm by road and rail from Hsu-chang. Also, the movement of this regiment for this distance suggests that the Chinese are using their railroads to move some of their units to training areas, and if this is the case, travel by rail exists in spite of recent reports from China concerning rail problems, especially a shortage of railcars.* Finally the observation of this unit in southern Honan [REDACTED] gives some indications of the length of time some of these exercises may last.

25X1

25X1

25X1

25X1

25X1

25X1

8. A portion of the artillery unit from the Hsin-hsiang Army Barracks AL 1 [REDACTED] was observed in the field [REDACTED]. Fifteen artillery pieces were deployed around a village approximately 12 nm south of the barracks area.

25X1

25X1

Combined Arms Training

9. Photography of the Ming-chiang area during November indicates that a possible combined arms exercise was taking place in the training area west of Ming-chiang Headquarters Infantry Division and Army Barracks NW AL 1. Although no equipment was seen in the training area [REDACTED] fresh track activity was seen, and the trenches and antitank ditches which had been dug for an exercise in November 1973 appeared to have been used. Aircraft from the Ming-chiang Airfield North [REDACTED] may have been involved in this exercise. BAT, FARMER, and HOUND aircraft were observed at Ming-chiang Airfield North during November 1974. These aircraft are not usually seen at Ming-chiang; the last time they were present was during the November 1973 combined arms training exercise.

25X1

25X1

25X1

25X1

25X1

Top Secret RUFF [REDACTED]

25X1

Airborne Training

10. During November evidence of training was observed near three airborne installations in the Wuhan MR. [REDACTED] an active drop zone was identified approximately 16 nm west of the Kai-feng Airborne Division Headquarters and Army School/Barracks AL 2 [REDACTED]. In addition, 17 COLT were observed at the Kai-feng Airfield [REDACTED] where only four or five COLT are usually seen. [REDACTED] the drop zone was inactive, and no COLT were present at the Kai-feng Airfield.

25X1
25X1
25X1
25X1

11. [REDACTED] 16 HOUND were observed at Hsiao-kan Airfield [REDACTED]. No HOUND were present at this field on [REDACTED]. Hsiao-kan Airfield supports the airborne units at the Hsiao-kan Airborne Army Headquarters and Barracks AL 1 [REDACTED]

25X1
25X1
25X1

12. A large airborne training exercise was observed in progress [REDACTED] approximately 10 nm northwest of the Ying-shan Airborne Division Headquarters and Barracks AL 1 [REDACTED]. At least 235 parachutes were on the ground in the drop zone. A training area with drop markers and numbered hillside positions was identified 4 nm west of the drop zone. Eighteen FA pieces and over 300 cargo trucks were observed in the area of the drop zone.

25X1
25X1
25X1

13. Training exercises in the Wuhan MR during November coincide with the annual fall/winter training cycle observed throughout much of China.

REFERENCES

25X1

REQUIREMENT

Project 120901ND

25X1

Top Secret

25X1

Page Denied

Top Secret



Top Secret